



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

DRUG BOSS SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Narcotics, money laundering ring smuggled and distributed more than 15 tons of marijuana

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The ringleader of a major drug trafficking and money laundering organization that smuggled more than 15 tons of marijuana into the United States and distributed the illegal drug shipments throughout the country has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison.

The sentencing of Gabriel David Gomez on Thursday here was the result of a lengthy money laundering multi-agency investigation led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents in New Mexico, in conjunction with the IRS, FBI, and the New Mexico State Police. U.S. District Court Judge William Johnson also issued a \$15 million money judgment against him.

Gomez, 27, was convicted on 52 counts of money laundering and conspiracy to distribute marijuana. According to testimony, he was responsible for distributing more than 40,000 lbs. of marijuana between 1999 and the time of his arrest in March 2003.

He was one of seven men and two women named in a 68-count indictment unsealed in March 2003, and superseded in June 2003. The indictment accused him, Charles Anthony Roybal, and seven other defendants with operating a New Mexico-based nationwide drug trafficking and money laundering ring. Roybal, 60, the financial manager for the drug trafficking network, was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay \$15 million last month. Roybal laundered proceeds from the illegal drug operation through casinos in Albuquerque and Las Vegas. None of the casinos are accused of any wrongdoing.

“This case, once again, demonstrates ICE’s commitment to shutting down major criminal enterprises that traffic in drugs, and threaten public safety,” said Jesus Torres, acting special agent in charge for the ICE El Paso Office of Investigations for West Texas and New Mexico.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.